

SECRETARY, KIRK LUNDBY

January 17, 2011 Govt. Comm.

Exhibit No. 33

Honorable Chairman Jon Sonju and distinguished Senate Local Government Committee Members 1-17-2011
SB 117

Good afternoon, Legislators. My name is Kathleen Hassan – spelled H A S S A N – and I reside in Trout Creek, Montana

I stand before this committee and respectfully announce my steadfast support of SB#117, the "Montana Coordination Act of 2011."

I believe the Coordination Act will be an asset to the people of Montana and want to see it signed into law and put into practice by all 56 counties. Coordination is an effective "jobs bill" that will help to relieve the huge unemployment numbers and job instability because coordination allows for the federal government to come to the table with local jurisdictions on issues that local jurisdictions believe are necessary.

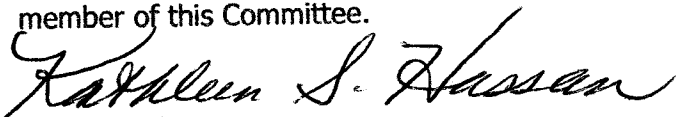
According to a November, 2010 report by the Research & Analysis Bureau of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, unemployment rankings by County reveal a disturbing **15.3% unemployment in Sanders County** while **16.1%** is the staggering number in **Lincoln County**. In fact, nine other counties range from 9.1% to 12.0% while eight others claim between 7.0% and 8.6%. Montana's crushing unemployment can no longer be acceptable as "**status quo**" especially since adopting SB117 as state law can usher a wealth of jobs to our state; not to mention an increase in businesses investing in local economies helping the economy to grow and thrive.

The fact that federal laws already mandate Coordination, with implementation by over 100 local governments nationwide, leads me to question, why not Montana's local governments? If California, Idaho, Alabama, Alaska, Texas, South Dakota, Colorado, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming can successfully implement programs, what about Montana?

I am an advocate of **SB#117** and ask the Senate Local Government Committee to stand with me and **vote YES for this bill without any amendments**.

Included with my testimony is a listing of signatures by others in my community who could not be here today in person but who are voicing their support of SB#117 and jobs, jobs, jobs. I respectfully thank you for this tremendous opportunity to speak with you!

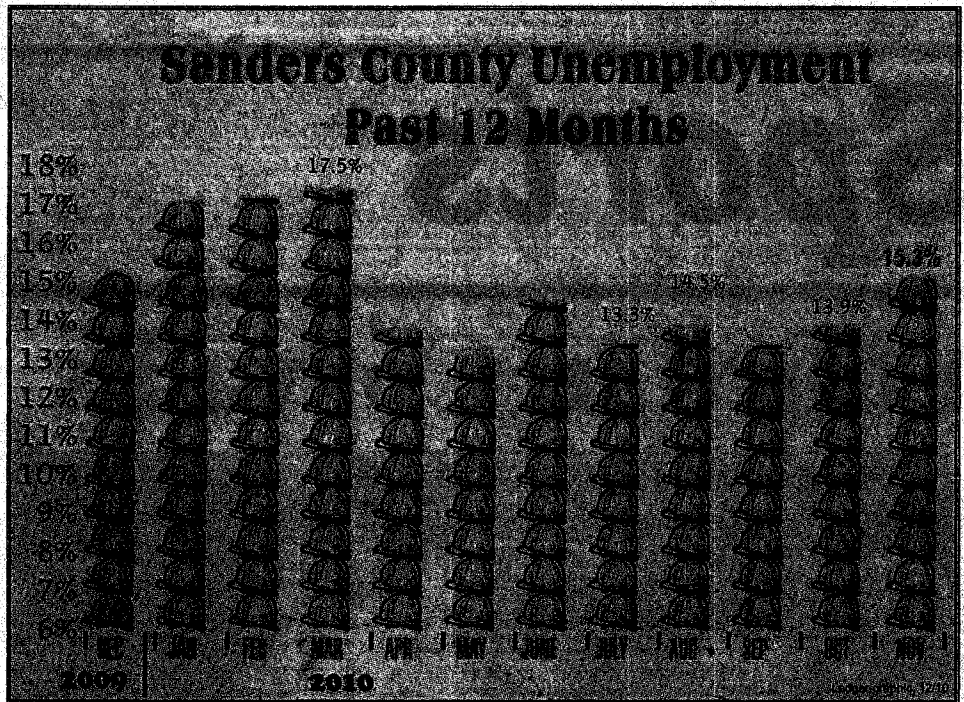
Here are copies of my testimony, supporting documentation and signatures from my community for each member of this Committee.



Kathleen S. Hassan
86 Whitepine Creek Road
Trout Creek, Montana 59874

November 2010 County Unemployment Rate Rankings
Non Seasonally Adjusted (Preliminary)

	County/Area	Rate	Rank
1	Fallon County	2.5	1
2	McCone County	3.0	2
3	Wibaux County	3.2	3
4	Richland County	3.3	4
5	Carter County	3.4	5
6	Powder River County	3.6	6
7	Sweet Grass County	3.8	7
8	Golden Valley County	3.9	8
9	Prairie County	3.9	9
10	Sheridan County	3.9	10
11	Dawson County	4.0	11
12	Custer County	4.2	12
13	Garfield County	4.2	13
14	Chouteau County	4.4	14
15	Toole County	4.5	15
16	Valley County	4.5	16
17	Daniels County	4.7	17
18	Treasure County	4.7	18
19	Liberty County	5.0	19
20	Phillips County	5.0	20
21	Hill County	5.1	21
22	Lewis And Clark County	5.1	22
23	Musselshell County	5.1	23
24	Petroleum County	5.2	24
25	Yellowstone County	5.2	25
26	Teton County	5.4	26
27	Carbon County	5.5	27
28	Beaverhead County	5.6	28
29	Blaine County	5.6	29
30	Jefferson County	5.7	30
31	Judith Basin County	5.8	31
32	Stillwater County	5.8	32
33	Wheatland County	5.8	33
34	Fergus County	5.9	34
35	Cascade County	6.1	35
36	Silver Bow County	6.2	36
37	Pondera County	6.6	37
38	Broadwater County	7.0	38
39	Missoula County	7.1	39
40	Rosebud County	7.2	40
41	Gallatin County	7.4	41
42	Madison County	7.6	42
43	Roosevelt County	7.7	43
44	Deer Lodge County	7.9	44
45	Meagher County	8.6	45
46	Park County	9.1	46
47	Ravalli County	9.6	47
48	Powell County	9.7	48
49	Lake County	10.4	49
50	Granite County	11.2	50
51	Big Horn County	11.5	51
52	Flathead County	11.8	52
53	Glacier County	11.9	53
54	Mineral County	12.0	54
55	Sanders County	15.3	55



Employment statistics show dramatic loss of jobs

Instead of getting better over the past year, the county's employment picture has actually declined, meaning the holiday season could be more of a challenge for area residents.

Statistics released last week show the number of unemployed workers has increased over the past 12 months to 633, 63 more than in November of 2009. The labor force is down by 124 and the number of employed workers is off by 187 as the unemployment rate climbed from 13.4 percent to 15.3.

The latest statistic is a decline from the 13.9 percent recorded in October, which was also above the 2009 rate.

Northwest Montana saw a general decline in the past month as Flathead County, which had seen months

with over 5000 workers looking for jobs, return to that status with 5022 in the latest report.

Five of the six northwest counties posted rates in double digits, with Lincoln County leading at 16.1 percent. Only Missoula County, the largest stayed below the double digit threshold.

Mineral County posted a rate of 12.0 percent, Flathead was at 11.8 and Lake County came in at 10.4 percent.

The six counties, with 12,409 workers seeking jobs, is 35 percent of the state's total of 35,028.

The bright employment picture in the state continues to be in the far eastern part of the state where an oil boom continues to keep the area at full employment. Fallon, McCone,

Wibaux and Richland counties, at 2.5, 3.0, 3.2 and 3.3 percent unemployment respectively, lead the state.

Sanders County has seen an erosion of jobs since the recession began in 2008. With a peak of 4485 jobs in June of 2008, to the low in November, the area has lost 990 jobs or nearly one in every four jobs due to the decline in the economy.

The labor force at the same time has declined from a peak of 4840 in June of 2008 to 4128 in November, meaning 712 workers have left the area or left the labor force.

Over the last 12 months, the county's unemployment peaked at 17.5 percent in March and reached a low of 13.1 percent in September.

HEARING DATE: 01-17-2011

To the Senate Local Government Committee, et al:

Honorable Senator Jon Sonju, Chairman sonjunt@yahoo.com
Senator Art Wittich, Vice Chairman SenatorWittich@montana.com
And Members:

Senator Alan Olson, Senator Bruce Tutvedt, Senator Shannon Augare, Senator Steve Gallus,
Senator Lynda Moss and Senator Gene Vuckovich

SB 117 Coordination Act of 2011, is a critical "jobs and economy bill."

Coordination between federal and local governments using existing laws: Federal Land Policy Management Act (FPLMA), National Environmental Act (NEA), and National Forest Management Act (NEMA) would be beneficial for the use and management of resources in Montana. The implementation of a coordination plan would strengthen local control and have a positive economic affect. Coordination empowers state agencies and local government and districts by establishing equal footing when interacting with federal agencies and departments. This government-to-government process levels the playing field and provides a means of protecting local sovereignty. I fully support SB117 and want to see it become Montana Law.

Signed:

Arthur C. Hassan III
ARTHUR C. HASSAN III 86 WHITEPINE CREEK ROAD TROUT CREEK, MT 1/14/11
Printed Name Mailing Address City/ST Date

Also, these additional Montana citizens support SB117 and urge this committee to further it in the process to becoming Montana law.

1.	<u>Kathleen S. Hassan</u>	<u>Kathleen S. Hassan</u>	<u>86 Whitepine Creek Rd, Trout Creek, 59874</u>	<u>Trout Creek, MT</u>	<u>01-14-2011</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
2.	<u>Joy Vold</u>	<u>Joy Vold</u>	<u>P.O. Box 1064 Thompson Falls MT</u>	<u>Thompson Falls, MT</u>	<u>1-14-2011</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
3.	<u>Kenny Batchelor</u>	<u>Kenny Batchelor</u>	<u>P.O. Box 1587</u>	<u>Trout Creek, MT</u>	<u>1-14-2011</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
4.	<u>Roberta Webb</u>	<u>Roberta Webb</u>	<u>1137 Blue Slide R. T Falls</u>	<u>Thompson Falls, MT</u>	<u>1/14/2011</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
5.	<u>Wayne MacQuart</u>	<u>Wayne MacQuart</u>	<u>P.O. Box 303 Thompson Falls</u>	<u>Thompson Falls, MT</u>	<u>1/14/2011</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
6.	<u>Charlotte Beaudry</u>	<u>Charlotte Beaudry</u>	<u>9 Military Dr. Trout Crk, MT</u>	<u>Trout Creek, MT</u>	<u>1-15-11</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
7.	<u>Leland Ziegler</u>	<u>Leland Ziegler</u>	<u>9 Military Dr. Trout Creek MT</u>	<u>Trout Creek, MT</u>	<u>1-16-11</u>
	Printed Name	Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date

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Honorable Senator Jon Sonju, Chairman sonjunt@yahoo.com
 Senator Art Wittich, Vice Chairman SenatorWittich@montana.com

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Signed:

Kerry Schwarz
KERRY Schwarz Box 2054 Thompson Falls mt 59873 01/16/2011
 Printed Name Mailing Address City/ST Date

Also, these additional Montana citizens support SB117 and urge this committee to further it in the process to becoming Montana law.

1.	<u>Scarlett Fausett</u> <u>Scarlett Fausett</u>	<u>P.O. Box 1921</u>	<u>59873</u>	<u>1-16-11</u>
	Printed Name / Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
2.	<u>Tom R. Dooling</u> <u>Tom R. Dooling</u>	<u>Box 164</u>	<u>Thompson Falls</u>	<u>1-16-11</u>
	Printed Name / Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
3.	<u>Barbara J. Belles</u> <u>Barbara Jo Belles</u>	<u>501 Upper Lynch Plains</u>	<u>Thompson Falls</u>	<u>1/16/2011</u>
	Printed Name / Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
4.	<u>Christine Anson</u> <u>Christine Anson</u>	<u>P.O. Box 563</u>	<u>Thompson Falls</u>	<u>1/16/2011</u>
	Printed Name / Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
5.	Printed Name / Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date
6.	Printed Name / Signature	Mailing Address	City/ST	Date